Development of small and medium towns in Assam

*176. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the small and medium towns selected for Central aid in Assam under the Integrated Development of "Small and Medium Towns Scheme" during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) the names of the towns which have not been included in the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) During the 7th Plan, three towns viz. Karimganj, Diphu and Nagaon from Assam have been included under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns.

(b) Against an allocation of two towns, the State Government recommended ten *towns namely Karimganj*, Diphu, Nagaon, Sibsagar, Bongaigaon, Golaghat, Dhubri, North Lakhimpur, Mangaldoi and Nalbari out of which only two viz. Karimganj and Diphu were included under the Scheme. Subsequently, Nagaon has also been included.

Development of food processing industries in Madhya Pradesh

*177. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI CHANDAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes have been drawn up for the development of food processing industry in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any funds have been earmarked for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) No specific scheme has been drawn up by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the development of food processing industries in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have, however, set up a High Level Committee to study prospects of agro-based industries, especially food processing industries. The terms of reference of the Committee include a study of the prospects of agro-based industries, especially food processing industries. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is also associated with the Committee.

2. Ministry of Food Processing Industries have a Plan Scheme under which financial assistance can be provided to the State Government/ Cooperative undertakings for the setting up of fruit and vegetable processing units.

3. Food Processing industry has been recognised as 'Thrust Area' by the Governemnt of Madhya Pradesh for intensive development. According to information sent by the Madhya Pradesh Government, food processing industries set up in 5 advanced districts of the state, *viz.*, Indore, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Durg and Gwalior will be provided all those facilities which are available to these industries in category 'A' backward districts.

Survey of lignite deposits in the country

*178. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India have conducted any survey regarding the lignite deposits in the country; if so, the details and the results thereof;

(b) whether any lignite deposits were discovered in Tamil Nadu; if so, the details thereof including the area and the estimated deposit etc.; and

(c) what steps are being taken to utilise these deposits in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHANLAL FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has so far carried out regional exploration for lignite in Barmer district, Rajasthan, area around Panandero, Kutch district Gujarat, Neyveli South and East in South Arcot district, Jayanamkondan-Cholapuram sector and Srimushnam sector in Tiruchirapalli district, Tamil Nadu and Bahur area in Pondicherry. During Field season 1988-89 regional exploration has been taken up and is in progress in Bikaner district of Rajasthan, Kutch district of Gujarat and Tiruchirapalli district of Tamil Nadu. As a result of regional exploration by GSI the assessment of reserves of lignite, in million tonnes, in different areas are as follows:— Botia-Bharka-Ciralthumbi area, Barmer district Rajasthan — 17.35. Pranpur-Fulra Dam and Mudia blocks, Kutch district Gujarat-17.53. Bahur area, Pondicherry—535.

Neyveli South area, South Arcot district, Tamil Nadu — 952. Neyveli East area, South Arcot district, Tamil Nadu — 450. Jayanamkondan-Cholapuram sector, Tiruchirapalli district, Tamil Nadu — 926.

Srimushnam sector, Tiruchirapalli district, Tamil Nadu — 629.

(b) GSI has discovered lignite deposits in the area south and east of Neyveli in South Arcot district, Srimushnam and Jayanamkondan-Cholapuram sector in Tiruchirapalli district respectively. The total estimated reserve in these areas is 2957 million tonnes. Besides a reserve of 535 million tonnes has also been estimated for Bahur area in Pondicherry.

(c) Two mines are already in operation which are linked to the two Thermal Power Stations of Neyveli Lignite Corporation. The capacity of these two mines are also being expanded to increase the power production. NLC has also submitted Feasibility Report to open a third mine with a production capacity of 111 million tonnes per annum to be linked to a third power station of 1500 MW capacity.

National programme on fish seed development

*179. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a National Programme of Fish Seed development;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the target of production of fish seed in the year 1989;

(d) what kind of fish seeds are being developed; and

(e) what is the progress of the above fish seed development programme so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Programme 28 commercial fish seed farms/hatcheries have been sanctioned to various States. 70% of the cost of construction, limited to Rs. 24.36 lakhs is given as loan to the State Governments and the balance cost of 30% including the cost of the land is borne by the State Governments.

(c) The target of the fish seed production during the year 1989-90 is 12,000 million fry.

(d) The fish seed of Indian major carps viz. Clata, Rohu and Mrigal and exotic carps viz. Grass Carp, Silver